

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: December 28, 2012

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, George Jaeckel, Pam Rogers, Ed Morse

Others present were: John Molinaro, Gary Petre, Sheriff Milbrath, Captain Scott

Absent: Dwayne Morris

Compliance with open meetings law: Gary Petre assured compliance.

Approve agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Pam Rogers, and seconded by George Jaeckel that the November 30, 2012 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Communications: None.

Status of hiring at the Sheriff's Office: The Sheriff's Office will be conducting interviews with three deputy candidates the second week in January to hire two. One of the recent hires is working part-time in the courthouse security area until sometime in January when he will be moving to full time. Another will be coming from the Clerk of Courts office in January and will be going directly to the Police Academy before beginning her duties at the Sheriff's Office. Captain Scott said the new hires that start out part time working in the security area seem to transition very well to full-time because they get to know some of the people and get more acclimated. At this time, a couple jail deputies will be retiring next year, one in February and the other in the fall. Backgrounds are being done on the next segment of candidates from the eligibility list now so the Civil Service Commission will likely be conducting interviews sometime in the spring for this next group.

Gary Petre mentioned that a part-time position for a custodian at the Sheriff's Office has also been requested. One of the current part-time custodians will be moving to a full-time custodian position in the courthouse (Pat is retiring). Until a new person is hired, the Sheriff's Office will contract with a cleaning service (daytime) to fill in. The cost will be covered by the wages budgeted for the custodian that is transferring.

Grants – Status of ongoing or new grants: There is a very good possibility the Sheriff's Office will receive more funding from Wisconsin Clean Cities toward propane systems. They have money left over but it is not a guarantee and the amount is not known yet. The Sheriff's Office is also applying for a grant from the Wisconsin Propane Council in the amount of \$10,000. A propane distributor needs to authorize an agency to receive this grant but since the Sheriff's Office buys a lot of propane, that was not an issue. If Wisconsin Clean Cities continues to fund the propane systems, the grant money from the Wisconsin Propane Council could be used for propane systems in other areas of the county. John Molinaro and the Sheriff talked about compressed natural gas and the fact that years ago it took a long time to fill a tank but has become much faster. The United States has a lot of natural gas which is a good part of the reason that alternative fuel is being pushed especially

for fleet vehicles. Since the Sheriff's Office already is using propane, there is no cost benefit to switch to natural gas. Both are clean burning fuels. It is expensive to build stations for compressed natural gas but it likely will become more widespread in the future as alternative fuel vehicles will probably be more common. MPG is very similar comparing gas with propane. The Sheriff's Office is very fortunate because we have the right connections and have someone that can install the systems on site, getting them up and running quickly.

Sheriff Milbrath recently received notification for the Enbridge grant which is a small grant used to purchase equipment. In addition, the Sheriff's Office will also be applying for the Canadian Pipeline grant. This grant amount is larger but there is more competition for it.

Captain Scott added that the propane systems have been left on the squads that are sold after rotating them out of the fleet (the systems are disconnected but still on the vehicle). There have been inquiries as to reconnecting the system for use by the buyers of these old squads.

Report from the Sheriff: The jail kitchen has been very fortunate with a community outpouring of food donations. As of about a week ago, the jail kitchen had received about \$68,000 of donated food items. Sheriff Milbrath felt the amount would end up around \$73,000 by the end of the year. The kitchen has been getting a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables, lately a large amount of potatoes. These fresh items really help the dietary requirements for the inmates and reduce complaints that the food is not fresh and/or is not good. Ed Morse asked whether the Sheriff's Office has to solicit these donations and the Sheriff replied that once the donations start, there really isn't much solicitation. Many thank you letters and some press coverage generally keeps the word out there for donations.

Pam Rogers inquired about any comments regarding the retired officer who was embezzling money from the Drug Task Force that they read about in the paper. The Sheriff said he hasn't heard a lot of comments but most have generally been supportive. Changes have been made at the Task Force after this investigation was brought forward. The retired officer is not in jail at this time and is waiting for his first appearance in court. A question was raised as to whether he was fired at the time this started and the Sheriff said there wasn't enough information for termination at the time and the only option for the Sheriff's Office would have been to put him on paid leave which really wasn't considered an option for them. The officer decided to resign. John Molinaro said the only negative thing he has seen regarding the case is that the paper had an article reporting that the county has had four of these incidences in the last 10 years. However, he felt that this is not uncommon. Most companies, especially larger ones, will have these issues and likely more of them. Gary Petre commented that you just don't hear about it as often with the private sector. The Sheriff added that this case caused a lot of embarrassment for the department and devastated the Task Force. Credibility for that unit is very important and they have been steadily trying to move on. The public has been made aware of the situation and hopefully know that the Sheriff's Office holds their people accountable. The Drug Task Force Steering Committee which is made up of area chiefs of police that are part of the Task Force brought up some concerns about questionable expenses last year and that's how the discrepancies were found. This led to an audit of everything (using the county's auditor) with that unit. The investigation was then turned over to DCI. Because a lot of the Task Force funding is through grants, the books are audited by the federal and state governments as well. John Molinaro added that if someone really wants to take advantage of the system it can be done without discovery right away as it is generally small amounts over time.

The Sheriff mentioned that they are going through the Town of Sumner contract (policing) as they

now have their own municipal court and the Sheriff's Office will be able to enforce some of their municipal ordinances now on a limited basis as the contract dictates. A contract was also drawn up for the Town of Koshkonong last spring but no action was taken at that time. They now wish to contract some policing in the township. The Sheriff will be attending the next meeting to make any contract changes that may be needed and that would benefit the town.

Review monthly bills and financial items: – The committee approved the monthly recap report for November bills in the amount of \$185,128.50. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members and they looked over all of the paid invoices.

Some discussion about the budget came up with John Molinaro saying that the Sheriff's Office will be about \$100,000 over budget due to overtime and Workmen's Comp issues. It's a fine line between hiring another person to help offset some overtime and the Sheriff said it won't really cure the problem enough to justify the position. Overtime is tricky and is hard to anticipate. Any little thing can add to the bottom line (such as the homicide in the City of Jefferson in November which was turned over to the Sheriff's Office to handle).

Paul Babcock commended the Sheriff's Office for the efficient handling of the snowstorm last week. The Sheriff mentioned that they had a few extra squads on the road using some of the Support Services deputies and the sergeant.

Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports: Jail and patrol activity reports were reviewed.

Jail assessment fund items: General fund items for the month totaling \$2,464.24.

Next meeting date is January 25, 2013 (Emergency Management).

A motion made by George Jaeckel to adjourn at 9:12 a.m., was seconded by Pam Rogers. Motion carried.

Motions Carried: 2 Lost: 0 .

Signed _____